

c.) Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1- 47, 50, 52, 59, 62, 65 and 66 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. ~~Kindly amend Claims 48,~~
51, 53-54, 57, 61, 67, 68, 71, 73 as follows. In accordance with the Revised Amendment Format, the status of all claims are presented below.

1 - 47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising: an image-bearing member, a charging means for charging the image-bearing member, an electrostatic latent-image forming means forming an electrostatic latent image on the charged image-bearing member, a developing means including a toner-carrying member for transferring a magnetic toner carried on the toner-carrying member onto the electrostatic latent image to form a toner image thereon, and a transfer means for electrostatically transferring the toner image on the image-bearing member onto a transfer material via or without via an intermediate transfer member,

wherein the charging means comprises a charging member supplied with a voltage and abutted against the image-bearing member to form a contact nip with the image-bearing member,

the charging member is selected from the group consisting of (i) a roller member having an Asker C hardness of at most 50 deg, ii) an electroconductive brush member supplied with a voltage to charge the image-bearing member, and (iii) a charging member having a magnetic brush formed of magnetically constrained magnetic particles having a volume-basis median diameter of 10-50,

the image-bearing member comprises an electroconductive support

a
and a photoconductor layer comprising a silicon-based non-single crystal material and disposed on the electroconductive support, and is charged to a potential of 250 to 600 volts in terms of an absolute value via the charging member abutted against it,

~~the magnetic toner includes magnetic toner particles comprising at~~
least a binder resin and a magnetic iron oxide, and inorganic fine powder and electroconductive fine powder present at the surface of the magnetic toner particles,
the magnetic toner has a weight-average particle size of 3 - 10 μm ,
the magnetic toner has an average circularity of 0.950 to 0.995,
and the magnetic toner contains 0.05 to 3.00 % of isolated
iron-containing particles.

49. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the developing means also functions as a means for recovering a portion of the magnetic toner remaining on the image-bearing member after transferring the toner image onto the transfer material.

50. (Cancelled).

a¹⁰
51. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein in by the charging means, the image-bearing member is charged to a potential of 250 to 500 volts in terms of an absolute value.

52. (Cancelled).

a¹¹
53. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the image-bearing member has a laminate structure including an electroconductive support, a photoconductor layer comprising a silicon-based non-single crystal material and a

surfacemost layer comprising a non-single crystal material ~~different from that of the~~
photoconductor layer.

54. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein
the a surfacemost layer comprises a non-single crystal carbon hydride film.

55. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the
charging means is a means for charging the image-bearing member by abutting the
charging member against the image-bearing member via electroconductive fine powder.

56. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein the
electroconductive fine powder is present at a density of at least 10^3 particles/mm².

57. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein
the image-bearing member is charged while moving the image-~~bearing~~ bearing member and
the charging member so as to provide a relative speed difference between surface moving
speeds of these members at the contact position.

58. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 57, wherein the
image-bearing member and the charging member are moved in mutually opposite surface
moving directions at the contact position.

59. (Cancelled).

60. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the charging member is a roller member having a volume-resistivity of 10^3 - 10^8 ohm.cm.

61. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the charging member is a roller member having a surface provided with minute cells providing an average spherical cell diameter of 5 - 300 μ m and a void ~~real~~ areal percentage at the surface of 15 - 90 %.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the charging member is supplied with a DC voltage alone or in superposition with an AC voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage of below $2 \times V_{th}$ relative to a discharge initiation voltage V_{th} in DC voltage application.

64. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the charging member is supplied with a DC voltage alone or in superposition with an AC voltage having a peak-to-peak voltage of below V_{th} relative to a discharge initiation voltage V_{th} in DC voltage application.

65. (Cancelled).

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim ~~65~~ 48,
wherein the magnetic particles have a volume resistivity of 1×10^4 - 1×10^9 ohm.cm.

68. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim ~~48~~ 48,
wherein in the developing means, the magnetic toner is carried in a layer at a density of 5 -
50 g/m² on the toner-carrying member to develop the electrostatic latent image on the
image-bearing member.

69. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein in the
developing means, the magnetic toner is carried on the toner-carrying member in an
amount regulated by a ferromagnetic metal blade disposed opposite to and with a small gap
from the toner-carrying member.

70. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein in the
developing means, the toner-carrying member is disposed opposite to and with a gap of
100 - 1000 μ m from the image-bearing member.

71. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein
in the developing means, the magnetic toner is disposed on the toner-carrying member in a
layer thickness smaller than a closest gap between the toner-carrying member and the
image-bearing member, and is transferred onto the image-bearing member to develop the
electrostatic latent image thereon.

72. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein in the developing means, a developing bias voltage comprising at least an AC voltage is applied so as to form an alternating electric field between the toner-carrying member and the image-bearing member, wherein the alternating electric field has a peak-to-peak intensity of 3×10^6 - 1×10^7 V/m and a frequency of 100 - 5000 Hz.

73. (Currently amended): The apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the transfer means includes a transfer member abutted against the image-bearing member via the transfer material to transfer the toner image from the image-bearing bearing member onto the transfer material.
